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By TED LEWIS

Washington, Feb. 4. The name of Jimmy Hoffa keeps

turning up in a tantalizing way in the Senate Bobby Baker investigation, although the testimony of the Teamsters Union boss is certainly not needed to establish a conflict-of-interest finding against President Johnson's onetime protegee.

Two weeks ago Don B. Reynolds, the insurance agent buddy of Baker who sold Johnson \$200,000 in life insurance from 1957 to 1961 brought up Hoffa's name in connection with a Jacksonville, Fla. land deal.

Reynolds, going into arrangements concerning a 1958-59 Teamsters \$105,000 loan on the land investment, testified that Hoffa had told him not to worry about his name or Baker's becoming known, as "I keep two sets of books."

When it was pointed out that at the time of the loan the Senate McClellan committee (chief counsel, Robert F. Kennedy) was investigating Hoffa's finances, Reynolds agreed that Hoffa had also told him "that he had some other books that he would show the McClellan committee."

Now, this testimony by Reynolds appears today to amount to a mighty significant accusation against Hoffa, but has anything been done about it? No. Mysteriously, there has not been a peep out of the Justice Department, although Attorney General Kennedy is supposed to be constantly enmeshed in a personal vendetta with Hoffa.

Nor has the McClellan committee opened its mouth. Instead, it acts just as if it had known right along about how there might be two sets of books.

We bring this strange disinterest up because there was a sort of tangential development today when the Baker investigating committee released testimony by Thomas J. Webb, Washington representative of the Murchison (Texas) interests and another friend of Baker.

A Friend Made the Introductions

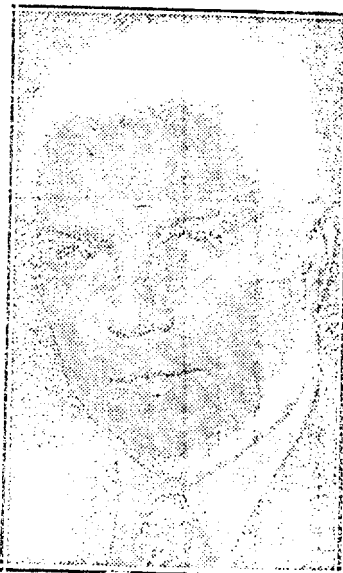
Webb, it now develops, first approached Hoffa about the loan on the Jacksonville property. He had not previously met the Teamster boss, so he had another business friend who knew Hoffa, one Irving Davidson, do the introductions.

Webb's now-released testimony shows that he was questioned concerning what business Davidson was in at the time and is in now. He was vague. About all he knew was that Davidson is in the public relations business and represents "some foreign companies."

This is curious testimony by Webb. He should know all about Davidson, for the latter at least once chaperoned Webb's boss, the Texas millionaire Clint Murchison, on a trip to Nicaragua when Murchison was looking for a sound foreign investment.

If the Baker committee wants to know more about Davidson and how close he was to Hoffa, it should take a look at a letter he wrote to one of his clients, President Somoza of Nicaragua on July 7, 1960, just before the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles.

The letter started off this way: "Dear Luis: Today I am taking off from Los Angeles, Calif., where I will be in the active camp of Lyndon Johnson . . ."



Jimmy Hoffa
A name in Bobby Baker probe

Money, Delegates, Hospitality, Votes

This interesting document was produced during questioning of Davidson in March, 1963, by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee during its investigation of foreign agents.

The letter continued: "I have made available to the Johnson camp the strength et al of labor (money, delegates, hospitality, votes, etc.) which I will make available to the Republican nominee in Chicago at the end of the month."

"The services that I have made available to them are invaluable, since through 900 locals throughout the United States, I have made available to them 12,000 militant workers."

Questioned by Senators about what union he was talking about, Davidson said he was talking about Hoffa's Teamsters.

It was brought out that Davidson was writing all this about his connections with the Johnson camp in order to get in good with Somoza. For example, he assured the Nicaraguan dictator that if LBJ was elected, one of the first things he would do would be to invite Somoza to the White House.

But the important fact is that, whether Davidson was a tiny or medium-sized wheel at the Los Angeles convention, his operation, whatever it was, was in line with Hoffa's Teamsters interests. Those interests were totally anti-Kennedy because of the old feud going back to the McClellan investigation.

LBJ Unaware of Activity in the Woodwork

It is also a fact that Johnson was totally unaware that Davidson was moving around in the woodwork at the Los Angeles convention. He didn't know him, never met him, and the same also went for Somoza.

Johnson in mid-1963, when he was Vice President, so informed the Foreign Relations Committee, which already was convinced that Davidson had stretched, if not distorted, his importance at the Los Angeles convention.

But Bobby Baker knew Davidson in 1960, and Baker was definitely working like mad at Los Angeles to get the Presidential nomination for LBJ not JFK.

This account all goes to show that the whole skein of intricate financial wheeling and dealing being unraveled by the Senate Baker investigation keeps turning up patterns which embarrass various top politicians, usually most unfairly.

The fact that the testimony about Hoffa having two sets of books is not being followed up anywhere suggests that those in authority are aware that this is a big political year. If there is a "Teamster vote" controlled by Hoffa, it certainly isn't smart to take a chance on losing it.

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